

Agenda

Eastern Councillors and Residents Forum Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 16 June 2026

Time 7.00 pm

Venue: The Alexander Centre, 15-17 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NZ

Membership:

Councillors Lloyd Bowen, Alex Eyre, Charles Gibson (Vice-Chair), Kieran Golding, Alastair Gould, Carole Jackson, Rich Lehmann, Claire Martin, Ben J Martin (Chair), Hannah Perkin, Julien Speed and Terry Thompson.

Quorum = 3

Pages

Information about this meeting

Members of the press and public can listen to this meeting live. Details of how to join the meeting will be added to the website by 15 June 2026.

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1. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

Visitors and members of the public who are unfamiliar with the building and procedures are advised that:

- a) There is no scheduled test of the fire alarm during this meeting. If the alarm does sound, please leave the building quickly without

collecting any of your possessions, using the doors signed as fire escapes.

- b) Assemble outside where directed. Await instructions before re-entering the building.
- c) Anyone who requires assistance in evacuating the building, should make themselves known during this agenda item.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the meeting held on 24 February 2026 (Minute Nos. 741 – 757) as a correct record.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families or friends.

The Chair will ask Members if they have any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or disclosable non-pecuniary interests (DNPIs) to declare in respect of items on the agenda. Members with a DPI in an item must leave the room for that item and may not participate in the debate or vote.

Aside from disclosable interests, where a fair-minded and informed observer would think there was a real possibility that a Member might be biased or predetermined on an item, the Member should declare this and leave the room while that item is considered.

Members who are in any doubt about interests, bias or predetermination should contact the monitoring officer for advice prior to the meeting.

5. Public Forum

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| 6. | Community Governance Review update (potential changes to arrangements for town and parish councils) | 5 - 6 |
| 7. | Local Government Reorganisation update (Government wants us to deliver your services differently) | 7 - 8 |
| 8. | You said, we did (including updates on matters arising) | 9 - 16 |
| 9. | Swale Bus Partnership Forum | 17 - 20 |
| 10. | Flooding in the Eastern Area | 21 - 24 |
| 11. | Reports/updates from Parish/Town Councils | |
| 12. | Local issues to be raised | |
| 13. | Confirmation of matters referred to Service Committee Chairs for | |

consideration

Issued on Monday, 8 June 2026

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in alternative formats. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, please contact democraticservices@swale.gov.uk. To find out more about the work of this meeting, please visit www.swale.gov.uk.

**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**

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Swale Community Governance Review Update – Councillors & Residents Forums - Summer 2026

The second stage community governance review closed on 2 June 2026. Following this consultation the cross-party member steering group will scrutinise responses and will make recommendations to council on the 22 July 2026 on any new governance arrangements.

Next steps will depend on the outcome of the review and we will continue to update residents and key stakeholders on the outcomes of the review. If you have any questions, please email cgr@swale.gov.uk

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Local Government Reorganisation Update – Councillors & Residents Forums - Summer 2026

The Government's consultation on Local Government Reorganisation closed on 26 March 2026. Announcements of the Government's decision on unitary models to be implemented for Kent and Medway are due early summer. Once this decision is made it will be communicated to the public via our usual channels.

Further updates will continue to be shared as and when available. If you have any questions, please email lgr@swale.gov.uk

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Eastern Councillors & Residents Forum – June 2026

You said, we did and matters arising

No.	Item	You said:	We did:
1.	Swale Local Bus Forum	A Faversham Town Council councillor asked who was invited to attend the Swale Local Bus Forum meetings, the Chair confirmed that bus operators were invited to attend. Faversham Town Councillor Martin asked what the criteria of a bus operator was as Faversham TC operated a bus service in the area.	The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods checked with Kent County Council about a representative from the Faversham Hopper bus service attending the Swale Bus Forum and they said that the criteria for being on the forum is that a local bus service is registered with the Traffic Commissioner. As the Faversham Hopper does fall into that category they will be invited to future meetings.
2.	Reconnecting our Ancient Woodlands proposal.	At the February 2026 Area Committee meeting, Councillor Terry Thompson explained the background to the National Landscapes boundary extensions proposal to reconnect the ancient woodland from Kings Wood and Perry Wood, north-eastward to the Blean Woodland Nature Reserve and east Blean at Hoath, to connect essential wildlife habitats and re-create a landscape-scale forest in east Kent. This project included a “green” land bridge across the A2, creating “steppingstones” to connect habitats and develop marginal habitats to support the biodiversity of the forest. Councillor Thompson requested that Eastern Area Committee agreed to support progressing the proposal and to also to see if funding could	This matter has been referred to the Chair of the Environmental Services and Climate Change Committee to consider providing written and funding support for the Reconnecting our Ancient Woodlands proposal.

		be found to produce a definitive map to support the proposal to bring Blean into the National landscapes. The first step would be to find out from National Landscapes who they would accept producing a map and then to seek a quotation for that piece of work.	
3.	Lack of fully accessible rural social housing	Councillor Terry Thompson said that due to a lack of fully accessible rural social housing, there was a long waiting list for residents. He asked if there was anything that could be done to address this issue. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Chair of the Housing, Health & Communities Committee.	Swale Contribute towards the Kent wide Rural Community and Enabling Services (RACE) a link to wider information on enabling rural housing delivery RACE Resources - Kent Housing Group . Please find attached to this report details about the RACE online seminar on 7 July at 11 am which is taking place during the Rural Housing week. We also work closely with English Rural the largest rural housing association, who have a large focus on Kent. The last rural exception site scheme was completed in Hernhill in 2022.
4.	Benches at Faversham Recreation Ground	Councillor Hannah Perkin said that the benches at Faversham Recreation Ground were broken and asked if repairs could be made.	The Greenspaces Manager advised that the benches in Faversham Recreation Ground have been repaired. Recently, a further new Legend on the Bench Charity, suicide prevention bench has been installed in Faversham Recreation Ground. The aim of which is to provide comfort and hope to those in our community who are

			struggling with mental health challenges and may be feeling isolated or in despair.
5.	Conservation Area Reviews	Councillors requested that regular updates should be provided at future Eastern Councillors & Residents Forums. The Conservation & Design Team report progress on the following Conservation Area Reviews to the Area Committees: • Faversham - Preston Next Conservation Area • Faversham- Town Conservation Area • Cellar Hill & Greenstreet Conservation Area • Graveney Bridge, Graveney Church and Graveney Goodnestone Conservation Area	Faversham - Preston Next Conservation Area - the adopted document is now published on the Swale Borough website. Faversham- Town Conservation Area - the Conservation Area appraisal was presented to the Policy & Resources Committee on the 20 March 2024, where in it was unanimously agreed to adopt the proposed document along with the proposed Boundary changes. Next step is to finalise the document with the proposed changes and send notifications to the properties within the conservation area and to London Gazette. It is envisaged that the final adopted document will be updated on the SBC website by Summer 2026. Cellar Hill & Greenstreet Conservation Area - the Conservation Area with extended boundaries is now adopted, the latest map of the conservation area is published on the SBC website, along with the final adopted document. Graveney Bridge, Graveney Church and Graveney Goodnestone Conservation Area Review - the Conservation Area appraisal was presented to the Policy & Resources Committee in March 2026, where in it was unanimously agreed to adopt the

			proposed document along with the proposed Boundary changes. Press notifications to the properties within the conservation area and to London Gazette were sent out in April 2026. The latest maps of all three conservation areas are published on the SBC website, along with the final adopted document.
6.	Area of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCA)	Councillors requested that regular updates should be provided at future Eastern Councillor & Residents Forums.	The proposed designation of an Area of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCA) underwent an eight-week public consultation from 1 April to 26 May 2026. The consultation outcomes were presented to the DMT on 26 May 2026. The updated ASCA paper is now scheduled for consideration by the Planning and Transportation Policy Working Group (PTPWG) on 9 June 2026, followed by Policy & Resources Committee (P&RC) in July 2026. Subject to approval by PTPWG and P&RC, the final ASCA document will be submitted to the Secretary of State for formal adoption and approval.
7.	Swale Local Heritage List	Regular updates on the Swale Local Heritage List have been given at Eastern Councillors & Residents Forums.	The second round of the Local Heritage List 'invitation to nominate' closed on 31 October 2025. The Selection Panel met on Tuesday 13 January 2026 and confirmed 90 additional assets for inclusion on Swale's Local Heritage List. These were ratified by the Policy & Resources Committee for on 4 February 2026

			and are now available to view on the SBC website. The Selection Panel also agreed that the next round of the Local Heritage List 'invitation to nominate' will take place in 2027 as part of Heritage Strategy Action Plan 3.
8.	Swale LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan) update	When available regular updates provided at future Eastern Councillor & Residents Forums.	The Active Travel Officer advised that the Swale LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan) has completed its public consultation. In total, over 300 comments were received and this resulted in 20 changes to the original report in terms of routes and proposed interventions to help improve the Borough's walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure. The amended report was then presented to the Environment Services & Climate Change Committee in March and has been formally adopted into SBC Policy. The full LCWIP document, a shorter executive summary and the changes made post consultation can be viewed on the following webpage: Strategies and policies - Swale Borough Council - Active Travel
9.	Swale Community Lottery	Councillors & Residents Forum Chairs requested an update on the Swale Community Lottery be taken to the summer round of meetings.	Swale Community Lottery is a fundraising scheme that supports Good Causes in the borough. Residents can buy tickets to take part in a weekly draw held every Saturday night, with proceeds helping local organisations deliver their services and the opportunity to win prizes. The Swale

			Community Lottery held its first-year anniversary at the end of March 2026 where we held a small celebratory event, inviting Good Causes and winners to celebrate the success of the lottery. News - Community lottery helping local good causes A Good Cause is a not for profit, voluntary or community group (e.g., registered charities, sports clubs, schools, social enterprises). Swale Community Lottery currently has 57 local organisations registered as a Good Cause who are raising funds by being listed as a good cause for people to select when they play. To play Swale Community Lottery visit: Swale Community Lottery: Easy online fundraising for good causes - Swale Community Lottery
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THE INDEPENDENT, NON-PROFIT RURAL HOUSING ENABLING SERVICE FOR KENT. WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARISH COUNCILS/RURAL COMMUNITIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS TO DELIVER HOMES THAT LOCAL PEOPLE WANT AND NEED.

RURAL HOUSING WEEK 6-10 JULY 2026. To mark this year's Rural Housing Week, RACE is holding an online seminar on **7th July** from 11am-12.30pm. Come and find out about local needs rural housing and how you can help deliver small schemes of affordable homes for people living in your rural community. Hear from (and ask any questions):

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- **RACE:** how we can support you and partners to deliver the homes that local people need; how the process works and how the homes benefit residents and the wider community
- **CHIDDINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL & ENGLISH RURAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION:** how they worked together to deliver 8 new affordable homes last year and have another scheme in planning

Good quality, affordable homes that meet people's needs are essential for health and well-being and they help the sustainability of our rural areas.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Tessa O'Sullivan, Rural and Community Housing Manager.

EMAIL: race@ashford.gov.uk

RACE is hosted by the Kent Housing Group which is based at Ashford Borough Council; we cover the whole of Kent and Medway

www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/race



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MINUTES

SWALE LOCAL BUS FORUM

Meeting held on Monday 21 April 2026 from 2pm, via Teams

Present: Emma Wiggins (EW)
Alun Millard (AM)
Cllr Dolley Wooster (DW)
Cllr Karen Watson (KW)
Dan Bruce (DB) – KCC
Luke Naylor (LN) – KCC
Steve Pay (SP) – KCC
David Morton (DM) – Stagecoach
Emma Casambros – Stagecoach
Ian Harrison – SBC
Jo Thomas
Chris Webber
Mike Knowles
Roland Eglinton (RE) – Chalkwell
Tim Lamkin (TL)
Tony Winckless (TW)

In Attendance: Emily Aherne (EA) Minutes

Apologies: Mike Baldock (MB)

NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	
1.1	Cllr Alastair Gould (joined later), Cllr Mike Baldock.	
2.	Minutes of Local Bus Forum – 19 January 2026	
2.1	The minutes from the meeting on 19 January 2026 were agreed and the following updates given on outstanding actions:	DB + DW
2.2	DB: Funding has been allocated for bus shelter upgrades. KCC will be running a similar scheme this year.	
2.3	A commitment was noted to explore potential funding for solar initiatives. Action: SP and Cllr Wooster are to discuss the proposed relocation of the bus stop in Sheerness requested by Cllr Wooster. A meeting is scheduled for 12 May, to which Cllr Wooster has invited Steve to attend.	
2.4	Item on S106 monies and importance of utilising Planning Applications to be discussed at next meeting: this was discussed and will be a standing item on the agenda moving forward.	

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3.	KCC General Updates	
3.1	A decision is awaited regarding acceptance and the proposed delivery plan. DB provided a verbal update and confirmed that the delivery plan will be circulated following the meeting.	
3.2	It was noted that there are no plans for new bus shelters in Swale at this time. The borough has an aging stock of bus shelter assets, and those identified as being in poor condition will be replaced. MK confirmed that the shelter in Minster currently being used by an unhoused individual will be replaced with a traditional cantilever-style shelter to discourage inappropriate use.	
3.3	There is limited capacity for progressive improvements, with funding expected to continue at a similar level to that received over the past three years. It is hoped that this round of funding may allow for consideration of wider network enhancements.	
3.4	Cllr Wooster Highlighted that residents are seeking more sustainable bus services, particularly for rural areas.	
4.	Bus Companies Update	
4.1	RE: The Grovehurst scheme is nearing completion. Hopefully delays will be reduced.	
4.2	The loss of toilet facilities at the bus hub may impact on scheduling.	
4.3	EW asked about progress at the bus hub. Action: DB will follow this up by seeking an update from Remi and will circulate the information once received.	DB
4.4	RE: The dementia-friendly bus service is now back on track. The rollout of audio-visual (AV) kits for buses is continuing. Action: RE noted that he will follow up with Cllr Watson, who meets weekly with the Pathfinders group, and will provide them with an update.	RE
4.5	CW: No updates were provided.	
4.6	TL asked whether new bus shelters would be installed as part of new developments. It was confirmed that this is possible, subject to funding being available for ongoing maintenance.	
4.7	Cllr Wooster expressed concern that the Joint Transport Board may be coming to an end and that issues at Bell Road could therefore remain unresolved. DB confirmed that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation had previously taken place regarding the creation of formalised waiting areas at Bell Road, but the outcome is currently unknown. DB will investigate this and report back.	DB
4.8	AM confirmed there is some provision for new bus stops on Barton Hill Drive.	
4.9	RG reported that the Hopper Community Bus service continues to operate. Plans are in place to introduce a Saturday service at a later date. He noted	

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	that while there was a shortage of volunteer bus drivers last year, the service now has more volunteers than required.	
5.	SBC Updates	
5.1	There are currently 27 Section 106 entries across 9 developments.	
5.2	RG advised that Perry Court was acquired last year. AM confirmed that work is progressing on a controlled pedestrian crossing between the school and the A2. The available funding budget is currently under review, and further opportunities may be considered depending on the remaining funds once this project is completed.	
5.3	IH's S106 spreadsheet will be circulated to attendees following the meeting. SP suggested that the wider group should be informed in advance of any future funding requests.	
5.4	Cllr Wooster expressed concern that some members may be acting as gatekeepers for the areas they represent. She emphasised that all councillors should have equal access to shared information and discussions.	
5.5	A proposal was presented regarding the provision of improved taxi ranks and safer public queuing spaces. Current arrangements were described as poorly lit, with associated anti-social behaviour concerns (particularly the area behind The Forum). The proposal suggests that the bus hub on St Michael's Road could operate as a taxi rank between 7:00pm and 7:00am, with loading bays used instead of active bus stops. Roland raised concerns that 7:00pm may be too early, as parts of the bus network are still operational. He suggested the earliest start time of 8:30pm and queried how enforcement would be managed. Additional concerns were raised regarding rail replacement services and the need to future-proof arrangements should bus services operate later in the future. Roland also suggested use of the loading bay at the front of the hub to avoid impacting bus stops, noting that the bay was originally designated for Travelodge use. Dan reiterated the need to future-proof any changes and advised that amendments would require a change to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). It was noted that the station taxi rank cannot be used due to permitting constraints.	
6.	Member and Residence Forum Feedback	
6.1	It was noted that KCC is undertaking a county-wide survey of all bus stops in Kent this year to assess accessibility, as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).	
7.	AOB	
7.1	Cllr Watson gave congratulations to the Community Hub bus for being nominated for a Mayor's Civic Award.	
Next meeting: - to be scheduled towards the end of July.		

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Swale Eastern Area Committee Flooding Tracker

The below tracker is an attempt to note and track all flooding occurring across our communities, the responsible parties and what action has been taken so that we are better able to resolve these issues, identify any patterns and push for wider changes that might benefit everyone affected by flooding. If you have an instance of flooding in the Eastern area or an update on one of the locations listed below please contact Cllr Charles Gibson who will update the tracker as regularly as possible ahead of Area Committee Meetings.

Serial	Location	Notes	Who is Responsible	Last Action Taken	Outcomes
1	Abbey – Whitstable Road Rec	Run off from the recreation Ground is a contributing factor. Recent works have improved the situation but it is not solved. Probable additional pressure from hydraulic locking from over burdened sewers.	Swale Borough Council	Remedial Action taken Autumn 24.	
2	Abbey – Whitstable Road Bus stops	there are blocked drains that are completely impacted with earth. This contributes to the surface water flooding at the bottom of the road and also localised flooding near the bus stops. This system is untested	Kent County Council	Were Scheduled to be cleared by KCC 14/12/23 this did not occur	
3	Abbey – Church Road	This is largely due to heavy leaf shedding blocking the drains along the pavement. Needs more regular clearance with road sweeper in the autumn and more regular attention to the clearance of the drains. Maybe additional pressure from private property drains.	Kent County Council	Repeatedly reported in autumn 23, and Summer 2025	
4	Abbey – Orchard Place	Surface Water flooding linked to Serial 1.	Swale Borough Council	Reported repeatedly 2023-24	
5	Abbey – Conduit street	Surface Water flooding repeatedly due to insufficient/blocked drains/gullies.	Kent County Council	Repeatedly reported.	
6	St Anns – Tanners Street	Towards South Road, surface water flooding due to inadequate drainage.	Kent County Council	Repeatedly reported. Drainage enquiry 737456 Still no improvement August 24 Possibly overhanging trees contributing.	

				Could the sludge drains be cleared? Question asked Oct 2024.	
7	St Anns/Watling – Forbes Road under bridge	floods badly in heavy rain in the dip under the bridge. There is clearly inadequate drainage in this area.	Kent County Council	Repeatedly reported	
8	St Anns – Curtis Way opposite Stonebridge Pond				
9	St Anns – Oare Street/Western Link Road	Insufficient drainage/camber	Kent County Council	Reported repeatedly 2023-24	
10	Watling – Love Lane Cemetery	opposite the entrance to the cemetery often floods in heavy rain and takes some time to drain in the following days pushing cars out onto the opposite side of the road.	Kent County Council	Reported repeatedly 2023-24	
11	Watling – London Road	opposite the Ashford Road junction outside the entrance to the small group of houses that are offset from the road floods regularly in even light rain. Insufficient Gulleys	Kent County Council	Reported repeatedly 2023-24	
12	Watling – Ashford Road	whole of the Ashford Road from the new roundabout on the pavement site only has one drain which is inadequate drainage for the area.	Kent County Council	Reported repeatedly 2023-24	
13	Teynham and Lynstead – Frogmal Lane	The residents at No: 42 reported their toilet again unusable for two days due to a "back up". No: 36 reports the manhole in his back garden overflowing and a disgusting smell in his ground floor bathroom. No: 37 reports an overflowing manhole. Contractors have been out on numerous occasions but are unable to provide a permanent fix. No: 43	Sewage Works	Reported repeatedly 2023-24	

		reports sewage flowing into their rear garden from the manhole cover approximately every six months. The residents at No: 42 reported their toilet again unusable for two days due to a "back up". No: 36 reports the manhole in his back garden overflowing and a disgusting smell in his ground floor bathroom. No: 37 reports an overflowing manhole. Contractors have been out on numerous occasions but are unable to provide a permanent fix. No: 43 reports sewage flowing into their rear garden from the manhole cover approximately every six months. It is reported that raw sewage runs down Frognal Lane approx twice a year and thence down the drives of the residents' houses. In heavy rain, there is always a flood in the adjacent orchard. Residents report wastewater coming out of the verge. The sewage works would appear to already be full and running at full capacity. Contractors on site have advised there is no ability to upgrade it. Not only does the plant itself need upgrading, but the underground pipework also appears to be failing. Tankers are having to be brought in to remove excess sewerage every two weeks. This is likely to get worse when 290 more homes are added and an upgrade is urgently required.			
14	Teynham and Lynstead - Hempstead Lane, Tonge End	Every time it rains, the drains at the Tonge end of Hempstead Lane are unable to cope with the water run-off - and the roadway floods. This floodwater then has nowhere to go apart from down the driveway at The Old	Kent County Council	Despite remedial works by KCC Highways, the drains continue to struggle - and the	

		Mill, Church Road ME9 9AW. This in turn floods the entrance pathway to The Old Mill and waterlogs the embankment over the stream tunnel from Tonge Pond.		road is still flooded whenever it rains.	
15	Teynham and Lynstead – Teynham Water Treatment Plant	Unknown substance detected during a sewage discharge no response from Southern Water.	Southern Water	Raised September 2024	
16	Boughton and Courtenay – Staple street Crematorium	Continued run off issues	Kent County Council / Crematorium operators	A new culvert has been installed.	
17	Boughton and Courtenay - Fox Lane Selling station	regularly flooded due to surface rain water and inadequate drainage.	Kent County Council	Reported repeatedly 2023-24	
18	East Downs - Church Road ME13 0HL	Water runs down kettle hill road and Stalisfield road and floods the corner. Doesn't even have to be heavy rain. The drain is blocked solid with sludge from the banks etc. makes the corner quite treacherous especially at night	Kent County Council	Reported repeatedly 2023-24	
19	Stalisfield, Gravel Hill	As Above	Kent County Council	Reported Feb 2026	
20	Newnham, The Street	Flooding	Kent County Council	Reported Feb 2026	
21	Chequers Hill by M2 Bridge	Flooding	Kent County Council	Reported Feb 2026	
22	Edith Road/Mall, Faversham	Flooding	Kent County Council	Reported Feb 2026	
23	White Hill/Brogdale Road	Flooding	Kent County Council	Reported Feb 2026	